

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 262819
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:FZBROWN:JY
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
EA:ROAKELY
L/EA:EVERVILLE
S/S-O :JETHYDEN
P:PCHABIB

-----004857 031541Z /47

O 021455Z NOV 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 262819

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PDIP, VM, US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN YACHT BRILLIG

REF: PARIS 31995

1. EMBASSY SHOULD CONTACT VIETNAMESE NOVEMBER 3 TO REQUEST
THAT SRV EMBASSY URGENTLY FORWARD FOLLOWING TEXT OF LETTER
FROM HOLBROOKE TO PHAN HIEN.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

BEARING IN MIND MY CONVERSATIONS IN NEW YORK WITH VICE
MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH IN WHICH WE DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR
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IMAGINATION IN DEALING WITH RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES, I WRITE TO YOU URGENTLY CONCERNING THE AMERICAN
YACHT BRILLIG, WHICH HAS BEEN HELD IN VIETNAMESE CUSTODY
SINCE OCTOBER 12.

I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE DETAILS OF THIS CASE, AND IT
IS NOT NECESSARY TO REPEAT THE MESSAGES EXCHANGED THROUGH

OUR PARIS EMBASSIES, THE LATEST BEING YOURS OF NOVEMBER 2. WE HAVE ADVISED YOU OF THE INTEREST WHICH HAS ARISEN IN THE AMERICAN PRESS AND CONGRESS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO STEPS BEING TAKEN BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE CREW AND SHIP.

THERE ARE SEVERAL ASPECTS TO THE BRILLIG CASE. ONE INVOLVES VIETNAM'S CONDUCT IN SEIZING THE VESSEL AND CREW. SECOND, THEY HAVE NOW BEEN DETAINED FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME, AND WE HAVE HAD INSUFFICIENT RESPONSE TO OUR REPEATED REQUESTS FOR FULL INFORMATION AND FOR THEIR PROMPT RELEASE. INSTEAD WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT MATTERS ARE "VERY GRAVE", THAT "NARCOTICS OR SOMETHING OF THAT SORT" IS INVOLVED, AND THAT YOUR INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING. YOU HAVE GIVEN US NO REAL SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR YOUR APPARENT SUSPICIONS. IT IS PARTICULARLY DISTURBING THAT VIETNAM CONTINUES TO REFUSE ACCESS TO THE CREW BY AN IMPARTIAL THIRD PARTY TO VERIFY THEIR HEALTH AND WELFARE. THIS IS ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN PRACTICE, NOT SOMETHING SPECIAL.

IF THIS SITUATION CONTINUES, AN ISSUE MAY DEVELOP WHICH WILL HAVE LARGER RAMIFICATIONS FOR OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES, I REGRET TO SAY, COULD ONLY BE DETRIMENTAL TO CONTINUED PROGRESS IN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS.
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I TAKE THE LIBERTY OF WRITING TO YOU IN THIS FRANK MANNER BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT IS IN YOUR INTEREST AS WELL AS OURS TO UNDERSTAND FULLY THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE BRILLIG CASE. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COMMENTS AT YOUR VERY EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

SINCERELY,

RICHARD HOLBROOKE. END TEXT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 02-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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